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GUY DE CHAULIAC

P/ Hedvig Lidforss Strömgen discusses some of the historical dental problems raised by Guy de Chauliac's Grande Chirurgie (Zahnärztliche Mitteilungen 45:189-192 March 15, 1957.

One of these is concerned with the status of the dental operator of the fourteenth century. When Guy refers to dental operations as "special" (particulares) he seems to give recognition to the dentator as a reputable practitioner. But he adds: "Tutum autem est ut tales operationes per medicos dirigantur." (It is safe, however, that such operations should be directed by a physician)

Guy's recommendation that a medical man be present in some capacity might be regarded as reflecting on the character of the dentator's services. It will be noticed that Guy stipulates the physician, not the surgeon. This must imply that the physician is merely to supervise, since physicians ordinarily would not deign to touch the patient. Moreover, since operations, even by surgeons, were sometimes directed by physicians, no disparagement of the dentator's competence can be intended.

The difference of opinion between Guy and Galen as to the existence of a nerve in the tooth may be merely a misunderstanding. Even in much later times some authors regarded the tooth as merely the hard substance. Guy may have meant only that there was no nerve in enamel or dentin, considering that pulp and tissue surrounding the roots were not part of the tooth.

CURRENT BIBLIOGRAPHY

P/ A bibliographican sourse that should not be overlooked is Current Work in the History of Medicine, published by the Wellcome Historical Medical Library 183-193 Euston Road, London, N. W. 1. This index, which is issued quarterly and has been published since 1954, lists current books and articles on the history of medicine and allied subjects. The entries are by subject and by author. Articles on dental history are included.

THE GOOD OLD TIMES

P/ Although the larger part of the book is devoted to critical comment on the practice of dentistry, Haddon Rowat in "This Won't Hurt a Bit" (Bristol. John Wright & Sons, Ltd. 1956) gives a striking (and shocking) picture of the

practice of dentistry by quacks and mercenary dentists in England early in the nineteenth century. His descriptions of dental practice are all from his own life and recount his experiences in England, United States, Canada, Burma, China, India, Australia, Japan, Ceylon, South Africa, and St. Helena.

CHANGE IN A.A.H.D. PROGRAM

P/ The new Hall of Health, Washington, D. C., is to be opened November 2. For that reason, Dr. John B. Blake will be unable to present his paper on "New Hall of Dental History" as scheduled for the A.A.H.D. meeting November 1 at Miami. In all probability George B. Denton will substitute for Dr. Blake.

IDENTIFICATION NEEDED

P/ Inquiry has been received with regard to the identity of one Dr. Nathaniel Bunn mentioned in biographies of Dr. Charles A. Kingsbury. Dr. Bunn is said to have been one of two or three dentists practicing in Trenton, New Jersey about 1850. Information with regard to this dentist would be appreciated.

BIOGRAPHICAL ARTICLES

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RECENT ARTICLES

P/ Acta, Rafael Kasse "Algunas notas de nuestra historia dental." Revista Dental (Dominican Republic) 9:18-20 March 1957. Brief sketch of dental history in Dominican Republic.

Giardino, Giosue. "Origine, evoluzione e conquiste della moderna odontoiatria" Clinica Odontoiatrica 12:3-9 Jan. 31, 1957. General remarks on the advancements of modern dentistry.

Obando, Marcelo A. "Fluorosis dental endemica precolombina" Odontoiatria 13:265-272 No. 149 1956.

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Hahn, William E. "Some notes on the teaching of anatomy in the first dental school" The Kalends (Waverly Press) 36:15-16 March-April 1957.